

3. Dispose of Waste Properly



Improper waste disposal degrades the visitor experience.

Overview for the Chugach and Tongass National Forests:

Inquire with local USFS staff to learn the best means for securing food/trash and discuss this protocol with your party before setting out.

Trash, including biodegradables, must be secured with food to prevent conditioning of bears, rodents, birds and other animals.

Pack out any trash you find, teach others to do the same and we can restore areas that have been abused.

Report marine debris to the Marine Conservation Alliance Foundation at: marinedebris@ak.net or www.MCAFoundation.org.

Inquire with local Forest Service staff to find out whether you should dispose of human waste by packing it out, marine disposal, the cathole method, or a combination, and discuss this protocol with your party before setting out.

Toilet paper is an animal attractant and must be packed out, or a natural alternative must be used.

Urinate away from camps and trails on rock, bare ground, in the ocean or below the high tide line; avoid urinating on plants since animals are attracted to the salt.

With dishwater, food particles must be strained out and secured the same as trash.

A washcloth, water and friction can clean any human; hot water, a scrubbing pad or sand/gravel can clean any dishes; biodegradable soap/lotions are not natural and can cause algae blooms.

Fishers and hunters should contact local USFS staff to learn the best means of disposing entrails: they can serve as a strong bear attractant.